



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

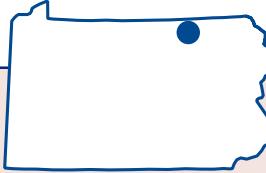
Sayre, PA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Borough of Sayre was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Sayre, with a population of approximately 5,800 citizens, is located in northeastern Pennsylvania near the New York state border. The Borough, at one point, was the headquarters for the Lehigh Valley Railroad. By the late 1880s, much of the railroad's operations were in place to take advantage of anthracite coal shipping activities in the region. The rail yard had facilities for the manufacturing and reconditioning of locomotives, freight cars, and cabooses. At its peak, 5,000 workers were located in Sayre. Rail yard operations produced a number of waste streams, many of which were released or disposed of on site. The now closed rail yard is located



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Borough of Sayre for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct community involvement activities, perform environmental site assessments, and develop a remediation plan for the former 25-acre Sayre Railyards site located on North Thomas Avenue. Previous assessments have found evidence of heavy metals, petroleum compounds, and solvents in the site soils and groundwater. Contaminants from the rail yard site have migrated, impacting the groundwater on neighboring properties.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team

215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Borough of Sayre, PA
570-265-0937

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

next to a very low income/high poverty area of the community. Its dilapidated condition and known chemical contamination present both an eyesore and a potential health threat to nearby residences. Assessment and cleanup of this site will reduce the potential health threat and allow for the redevelopment of the property as an integral component of the borough's industrial zone, thereby encouraging new investment, tax base expansion, and job development.